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NOTICES FROM THE LICK OBSERVATORY.

PREPARED BY MEMBERS OF THE STAFF.

VARIABLE STARS.

The last number of the *Astronomical Journal* (No. 379) is devoted entirely to Dr. S. C. CHANDLER's "Third Catalogue of Variable Stars." This catalogue is as complete as it can be made, containing the elements of all known variables carefully revised by means of all the published maxima and minima. The tables give the definitive notation for each star, its position for 1900, and for 1855, its annual variation, its degree of redness, its magnitudes at maximum and minimum, the interval in days and decimals of a day from minimum to the next succeeding maximum, the elements of maximum (including the epoch, the period, and any known irregularities in the light curve), and the basis of elements. The data in the column "Basis of Elements" have been arranged "in order to indicate, as well as can be done by so succinct a form of statement, the actual present condition of the observation of the various stars. This will enable observers to regulate their selection of the objects most needing observation." These columns also indicate that "very few stars within the reach of astronomers of the northern hemisphere have been seriously neglected."

Notes appended to the catalogue give the facts relating to the discovery of the variability of the several stars and other miscellaneous data of useful nature. Following these is a list of 130 suspected variables which require further observation before being admitted to the list of known variables. Attention is also called to Professor BAILEY's discoveries of large numbers of variables in several star clusters; to missing *Durchmusterung* stars; and to suspected variables in the *Cordoba Durchmusterung*.

The attention of the members of the A. S. P. is especially directed to this catalogue, as the study of variable stars affords one of the most promising fields of work for amateur astronomers. The optical aid needed for most of the stars is within the reach of all, and, as Dr. CHANDLER says, "the work of the accurate observation of the phenomena, which, as in the case of the comets, is of a much higher grade than the discovery of new objects—is the most essential element in the progress of this branch of astronomy, and is a field affording ample room for more participants." For this work the new catalogue is almost indispensable.

R. G. AITKEN.

ASTRONOMICAL TELEGRAMS.

Telegram received Sunday, June 21, 9 P. M.

[TRANSLATION.]

To LICK Observatory:

BROOKS' periodic comet has been observed on its return by JAVELLE, at Nice, on June 20. 5751.

R. A. $22^{\text{h}} 25^{\text{m}} 38^{\text{s}}.0$

Dec. $-18^{\circ} 33' 59''$

(Signed) JOHN RITCHIE, JR.

THE CROSSLEY TELESCOPE.

The large mirror was placed in position in the telescope on June 12, 1896.

W. J. HUSSEY.

ON THE DETERMINATION OF PLANETARY DIAMETERS.

M. BIGOURDAN of the Paris Observatory has recently completed an extensive series of diameter measures of *Jupiter's* satellites. His results are of great value, not so much on the score of determining the size of the satellites, but as a timely contribution to the general problem of Diameter Determination.

Astronomers have devoted a great deal of time to measuring the diameters of our planets and their satellites. The micrometer measures obtained are converted into arc, corrected for differential refraction, phase and distance, and the results thus secured are generally called Diameter. The method is convenient, leading to speedy results; but how much are the results worth? Very